

Environmental shop teaches students to be good stewards of the local community

By: 179th Base Environmental Office

At this year's Fall Festival, held Oct. 28-29, 2002, 400 first through fourth graders from Mt. Gilead Schools celebrated the seasons and the environment. The students spent these two days attending workshops on subjects from bats and wildlife to recycling and Native Americans.

Krista Keplinger, environmental protection specialist at the 179th Airlift Wing, spent the two days with the students teaching a variety of topics. The first session was held at the State Lakes State Park outside Mt. Gilead for third and fourth graders. Keplinger spent the day discussing the importance of saving the rainforests, recycling, reusing items, reducing trash and not littering.

Keplinger said she was amazed at how much the students already knew about protecting the environment. "It was truly inspiring and encouraging as an environmental specialist," she said.

The second day of the festival was moved indoors due to weather, but the sessions continued effortlessly. This day was for the first and second graders who spent their time with Keplinger learning the story of the Auroras and how important good earth stewardship is for everyone. The students were able to make environ-



Krista Keplinger teaches Mt. Gilead students about the importance of the environment.

mental necklaces to symbolize the parts of the environment they could and should take care of to be considered good stewards of the environment.

The festival was a tremendous success. It was a chance to take time out of busy schedules and have fun while learning the importance of the environment. This festival also afforded the opportunity for present-

ers to teach the children how important their world is, what they can do to keep it beautiful and prepare the next generation of good earth stewards.

"It was a wonderful change of pace to spend a couple days with the students," Keplinger said. "It is a tremendous gift to be able to give back to our communities in any way we can. Plus it is usually an extraordinary amount of fun."

Officials announce new service dress nametag

10/01/02 - WASHINGTON (AFPN) -

The Air Force's service dress uniform welcomed back an old friend Oct. 1: the nametag.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and other senior leaders selected a new nametag for the uniform at the 2002 Corona Top conference in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The new service dress nametag has a

brushed satin finish and blue letters. It is slightly larger and heavier than the blue plastic nametag worn on the blue shirt and medical white uniform. It will only feature the wearer's last name and will only be worn on the service dress, on the right side parallel to the ribbons and medals.

Air Force officials decided last year that a nametag was needed on the

service dress uniform. Several proposals were reviewed and feedback was gathered from across the Air Force during several weartests.

The new nametags will be available in Army and Air Force Exchange Service military clothing sales stores at a future date when stocks become available.